

CLAIMS: The following is a listing of all claims in the application with their status and the text of active claims.

1. - 6. (CANCELLED)

7. (NEW) A friction-grip fireplace tool, comprising:

- a. a unary, v-shaped, open-jawed mouth,
 - b. means of said open-jawed mouth exhibiting a spring-like effect when urged wider open,
 - c. means of said open-jawed mouth resisting the heat of a fire,
 - d. ridges spaced at intervals around the inner perimeter of said open-jawed mouth so as to create a pronounced friction effect within said open-jawed mouth,
 - e. an elongated connecting rod,
 - f. means of joining said connecting rod at its lower end to one side of said open-jawed mouth such that the closed end of said open-jawed mouth is directed toward said fireplace tool's user,
 - g. a hand grip,
 - h. means of joining said hand grip to said connecting rod at its upper end,
- whereby a user can grip said fireplace tool by said hand grip, push said open-jawed mouth onto said log, thus applying a progressively tightening gripping force created by the combination of said spring-like effect and said friction effect, lift, move, reposition and release said log, without manipulating any moving parts.

8. (NEW) The friction-grip fireplace tool of Claim 7, further including a wedge-shaped tip at the open end of one side of said open-jawed mouth,

9. (NEW) The friction grip fireplace tool of Claim 7 wherein material of said open-jawed mouth is steel,

10. (NEW) The friction-grip fireplace tool of Claim 7 wherein material of said open-jawed mouth is iron.
11. (NEW) The friction-grip fireplace tool of Claim 7 wherein said fireplace tool is constructed from a single piece of material bent to form said hand grip at one end, said open-jawed mouth at the other end, and said connecting rod between said ends.
12. (NEW) The friction-grip fireplace tool of Claim 7 wherein said fireplace tool is constructed by joining three separate pieces of material, said open-jawed mouth, said connecting rod, and said hand grip.
13. (NEW) The friction-grip fireplace tool of Claim 7 wherein said fireplace tool is constructed by joining two separate pieces of material, said open-jawed mouth and said connecting rod formed from one said piece and said hand grip formed from the second said piece.
14. (NEW) The friction-grip fireplace tool of Claim 7 wherein said fireplace tool is constructed by joining two separate pieces of material, said open-jawed mouth formed from one said piece and said connecting rod and said hand grip formed from the second said piece.
15. (NEW) The friction grip fireplace tool of Claim 7 wherein means of joining said open-jawed mouth and said connecting rod is by welding.
16. (NEW) The friction grip fireplace tool of Claim 7 wherein means of joining said open-jawed mouth and said connecting rod is by threaded coupling.
17. (NEW) The friction grip fireplace tool of Claim 7 wherein means of joining said hand grip and said connecting rod is by welding.

- 18. (NEW)** The friction grip fireplace tool of Claim 7 wherein means of joining said hand grip and said connecting rod is by threaded coupling.
- 19. (NEW)** A method of lifting and repositioning a log in a fireplace comprising:
- a. providing a friction-grip fireplace tool of the type comprising a unary, v-shaped, open-jawed mouth constructed of a resilient, fire-resistant material, ridges spaced at intervals around the inner perimeter of said open-jawed mouth, an elongated connecting rod, joined at its lower end to one side of said open-jawed mouth, with the closed end of said open-jawed mouth directed toward the user of said fireplace tool, and a hand grip joined to the upper end of said connecting rod,
 - b. pushing said open-jawed mouth onto said log, thus applying gripping force created by the combination of the resilience of said open-jawed mouth, the friction effect of said ridges, and said log being urged progressively deeper into said open-jawed mouth,
 - c. lifting and moving said log to a new position in said fireplace,
 - d. releasing said log into said new position by tapping one side of the open end of said open-jawed mouth against any solid object in said fireplace

whereby a user can grip, lift, move, reposition and release said log, without manipulating any moving parts.